Mr. S. F. Nunez.—With your permission, I want to move this as a token motion. It is to bring to the notice of the Government the present system in the matter of affixing stamps for cashing cheques. Now, in the banks of the State, we find that for every cheque that has to be cashed, we have to fix a stamp. That is indeed a serious impediment not only in the way of people who have got accounts in the Bank but also in the development of the banking system. There are many well-to-do people, who would deposit their money in the banks, not for the purpose of interest, but even for convenience and safety. But now, if such people go to draw their money they have to fix a stamp. I request that this impediment may be removed.

President.—This fact has been brought to the notice of the Government by the Nedungadi Bank and the Indian Bank at Mattancheri, and we are just trying to get information as to what steps are taken by Travancore Government in this matter. We shall see to it.

The motion, not being pressed to a division, was considered to be withdrawn.

President.—Then, No, 3, Mr. Ikkanda Wariar.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—I do not move it. It was also to the same effect.

President.—Then, No. 4, Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I do not move it. It was also for the same thing.

President.—Then, No. 5, Mr. M. K. Raman.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I am not going to press my motion. I want to get some information. Are any steps taken for the printing of stamps and stamp papers in our Government Press?

President.—There is some correspondence going on. We have asked Messrs. Dickinson and Co., to send their guides. It is under correspondence.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—It was only to bring to the notice of the Government that we can save Rs. 40,000 that I tabled this motion.

Motions Nos. 3, 4 and 5 not being pressed, were taken as withdrawn.

The question that Demand No. VII—Stamps for a sum of Rs. 52,675 be granted was put to votes and passed.

Demand No. XXV.
Stationery and Printing—Rs. 82,300

President.—Demand No. 25.—Stationery and Printing.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Sir, I beg leave to move for an allotment of Rs. 82,300 under 'Demand No.XXV—Stationery and Printing'. Of this amount, Rs. 45,750 represents the anticipated expenditure under 'Stationery' and Rs. 36,505 the expenditure

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under 'Printing.' The provision made for Stationery does not call for any remarks.

The budgetted expenditure under 'Printing' for 1103 is Rs. 36,505. This is less than the budget allotment for the current year by Rs. 11,816. The large increase in the allotment for certain capital expenditure under "Cost of printing materials" for the current year is due to the provision made in the purchase of 2 printing machines. These machines have been received, and are being fitted up. They will be in working order from the beginning of next year. No such big purchases are anticipated for next year, and hence the decrease in the provision. The temporary establishment entertained in 1100 is proposed to be retained next year also, and in addition, provision is made for the entertainment from early next year of 4 more additional hands, viz., 1 Minder on Rs. 14, another on Rs. 12 and 1 Layer on Rs. 12 and a Taker off on Rs. 10 to work the two new machines. The scale proposed is the same as that for similar workmen now existing. The provision under the other sub-heads does not call for any special remarks. I request that the allotment may be passed by the House.

Motions Nos. 1—4.

2. Printing.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 36,505 for "printing" by one rupee.*

Mr. A B. Salem.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 36,505 for "printing" by one rupee.*

Stationery and Printing—Total.

M C. A. Ouseph.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 82,300 under "Demand No. XXV" by one rupee.*

Mr. K. Sankaran Nambudiri.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 82,300 under "Demand No. XXV" by one rupee.*

President.—Cut motion to reduce the allotment of Rs. 36,505 for Printing by Re. 1 by Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—I do not move it, but, in this connection, I should like to have some information. I understand from an answer to a question that copies of the Tenancy Regulation are out of stock in the Government Press. So the Government would do well to take a list of the important publications especially of Law books, Acts and Regulations, and have a few copies printed which are out of stock and which are a necessity.

President.—Noted.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—In this connection, I have to bring to the notice of the Government the price of the Legislative Council publications. The price fixed for the publication is rather too

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high, viz., 4 as. It may be reduced to one anna, for I would suggest even at that rate it might be useful for the general public. The Madras Government charges only 2 as. per number for its publication.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—It may be published as supplementary to the Gazette. I think there is no objection. That sort of proceedings would be advantageous. Now, the proceedings are shut up, and the public cannot understand what things are taking place here. This is only to be noted.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I would press upon the Government the first point, that it may be published as a supplement in the Gazette.

President.—At Madras, what is the procedure?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—It is not published in the Gazette. It is published separately.

Sir, the next point to which I wish to call the attention of the House is to the great delay in printing the proceeding of this Council, which, elsewhere in India, is printed within 24 hours. In many cases the proof is placed in the member's hands the next day. I have read it in Madras. Here we get it after months. I cannot understand what the delay is due to. If it is a defect in the technical qualifications possessed by the Superintendent of Press, I think we must rectify that. If it is a defect in the qualifications of the subordinate officers, that also we can rectify. My point is that these publications should be given out as early as possible, in the country, because these are live questions. After a time, their value, their taste is all lost. We get them as old history to be read. Live questions must be given in the day itself; as like hot cakes in the country, they must sell. Long, long afterwards we get them, sometimes a bit coloured or something newly inserted and something omitted.

Further, it is also necessary for the country to know what all things take place here as soon as they take place here. I also wish to know the difficulties in the way. That is why I tabled this cut motion.

Then, Sir, I want to call the attention of the House to the poor condition of the compilers and binders. They get Rs. 10 a month as laid down here.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—They are paid according to the quantity of work turned out by them. One binder got in Thulam Rs. 29, Vrischigam 16, Dhanu Rs. 20, Makaram Rs. 29—6—11, Kumbham Rs. 30—5—8, Meenam Rs. 11—9—9, Medam Rs. 18—5—7 and Edavam Rs. 36—14—9. It depends upon the amount of work.

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Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—Comparatively, they are better off here. In a local Press, they have to work 8 hours, whereas they need only work for 6 hours a day to get their minimum pay.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—They are not given pension. They do not get any casual leave. They do not get any privilege leave.

President.—They are given casual leave. Those who are prepared to work all days can work. That depends upon the physical strength. One may have a large family to support, and he may be prepared to work.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Petitions were received from compositors that they are not given sufficient work, and the Members complain that they are, over-worked.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I had an occasion to ask a question with regard to the compositors, and although that was answered, my supplementary question was not answered.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—No complaint.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—They get Rs. 20 to Rs. 30. But it will be against their health. The question of the consideration of the life comes.

President.—It is their look-out. Suppose they have a large family to maintain.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—There was a committee appointed, and certain recommendations were forwarded to the Government for consideration, and the Government did not take any action on them. At least give effect to the recommendations of the committee.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—Their remunerations have been raised.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I am glad to find that the information at least came at the end. Any way, Sir, I have got that information, but still you don't see the point. They are earning more than they would get otherwise, but that is not quite correct. They have to work overtime to get this increased amount you are paying for the minimum number of years. In order to augment their life they work at home. The point is why their lot should not be improved.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—In private presses they have to work for 8 hours, whereas here they have to work only for 6 hours to get their minimum pay. Their remuneration is calculated on the basis of 6 hours.

President.—May I take it that you have withdrawn the motion?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I don't move my motion.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I want to know the cause of the delay in publishing the proceedings.

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Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—We have to get the speeches revised by the respective speakers. They are not returned by the Members soon. At times, I have to send two or three reminders to them ; and when the copy is ready, the Press will be busy on account of the budget or some other equally pressing work.

President.—Our delay here you can check ; but, when the Members do not return in time, what shall we do? We shall have to revise the thing ourselves.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—There is a rule to that effect which we have not been enforcing up till now.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—In Parliament they edit the speeches. There is no difficulty at all.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—There are superior reporters.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—We do not edit or revise in our own way. So I think that explains the cause of the delay. As for the case of Madras and Bengal, the same difficulty was pointed out by the Members there too. There also, they said it was due to the delay in the revision of the speeches, and on account of the pressure of work in the Press that the publication of the proceedings are a bit delayed.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—No, they don't take so long a time.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I have been present in the President's gallery throughout a session. The next day the previous day's speeches were presented.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—That might be in the newspapers.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Proof was put in the hands of the members.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—That is entirely different from the proceedings.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—The Secretary's charge that the Members do not return it in time after revision is true. I have never done that.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—Some Members ask us just to wait for another week. As regards coloured proceedings, excepting the wrapper, there is no coloured paper used. (*Laughter.*) Why? I am serious. If the Members will come to the office, I shall satisfy them that the proceedings could not be published earlier than we do, lest there may be mistakes, and absolutely no colour is given to the copy in our office.

The motions under "Stationery and Printing" were deemed withdrawn. The question of granting the allotment under "Stationery and Printing" was put to the votes and was carried.

President.—The next Demand is No. "IX—Forests".

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